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Section: Doctrine of Sin

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**Q37. What happened to mankind because of sin?**

After the sin of Adam, all people are guilty: born sinful by nature, enslaved to sin, and practice sin willingly and continually; therefore, all are due the just penalty of God’s perfect wrath.

* **Introduction**

**1689 Baptist Confession of Faith**: “God created humans upright and perfect, and he gave them a righteous law that would have resulted in life if they had kept it, but threatened death if they broke it. Genesis 2:16-17 ... However, they did not remain in this honored position for long. Satan used the subtlety of the serpent to trick Eve, who then seduced Adam. Without any compulsion, Adam willfully disobeyed the law written in his heart (of their creation) and God’s command by eating the forbidden fruit. Genesis 3:12-13 ... God was pleased, according to his wise and holy counsel, to permit this because he had planned to use Adam’s sin for his own glory.”

**John 3:19-20**

**Q33. What is sin?** Sin is disobeying God; sin is any disobedience in heart or deed to God’s perfect law and commands.

* **Born Sinful by Nature**

**Original Sin**: The inherited guilt and corruption of man’s nature as a direct result of Adam’s sin. Because of God’s system of headship, when Adam sinned, in some sense, all of mankind sinned with him; therefore, Adam’s guilt is every person’s guilt. In addition to the legal guilt that God imputes to each person, everyone also inherits a sinful nature and the other consequences brought on because of Adam’s sin.

**John Calvin**: “Original sin, therefore, seems to be a hereditary depravity and corruption of our nature, diffused into all parts of the soul, which first makes us liable to God’s wrath, then also brings forth in us those works which Scripture calls ‘works of the flesh.’”

**Romans 5:12** Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned

**Federal Headship of Adam**: God chose Adam as the Federal Head (representative) of all mankind. Because Adam failed to obey God’s commands perfectly, all those he represented receive the results of his disobedience. Given God’s perfect wisdom, we can never argue that Adam was a poor choice to represent us. God’s choice of Adam as the first Federal Head was an infallible (perfect) choice; Adam represented us accurately. If we are to be reconciled to God, we need a second and final Federal Head to redeem and represent us. For the salvation of the elect, God ordained Jesus as the second and final Federal Head.

**Romans 5:19** For as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous.

**Psalm 51:5** Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me.

**Psalm 58:3** (NIV) Even from birth the wicked go astray; from the womb they are wayward, spreading lies.

**Tedd Tripp**: “Even a child in the womb and coming from the womb is wayward and sinful. We often are taught that man becomes a sinner when he sins. The Bible teaches that man sins because he is a sinner. Your children are never morally neutral, not even from the womb.”

**Jeremiah 13:23** (NLT) “Can an Ethiopian change the color of his skin? Can a leopard take away its spots? Neither can you start doing good, for you have always done evil.”

* **Enslaved to Sin**

**Total Depravity**: As a result of Adam’s sin, every person born of both man and woman has inherited a sin nature and is utterly dependent on saving grace exerted by God for a new nature and salvation. Because of the fall, every part of natural man has been corrupted by sin: his mind, will, emotions, and flesh. Sin affects the whole person; all people sin because they are sinners by nature. All men are conceived in sin, dead in sin, slaves to sin, and deserving of God’s wrath. Total depravity does not mean that man is without a conscience or any sense of right or wrong, nor does it mean that man is as wicked or sinful as he could be. Total depravity recognizes the Bible teaches that even the apparent “good” things unregenerate man does are ruined by sin, because they are not done out of faith in Jesus for the glory of God.

**R.C. Sproul**: “The body, the mind, the will, the spirit—indeed, the whole person—have been infected by the power of sin.”

**Isaiah 64:6** ... and all our righteous deeds are like a polluted garment ...

**Genesis 6:5** The Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intention of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.

**1 Corinthians 2:14** The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned.

**Romans 8:7-8** For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot. Those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

**Romans 8:9** You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you ...

**Human Inability**: In and of oneself, a person can do nothing that honors God and has no will that longs to trust in Jesus. After Adam, all of mankind are born spiritually dead sinners; each person continues in sin, is unable to do anything that genuinely seeks for or glorifies God, and deserves only God’s righteous wrath.

**John 8:34** ... “Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who practices sin is a slave to sin.”

**The 1689 Baptist Confession**: “After the fall into sin, humanity lost the ability to choose anything good related to salvation. In their natural state, they are completely hostile to everything good and dead in sin. By their own power, they are unable to convert themselves or prepare themselves for conversion.”

**R.C. Sproul**: “The unregenerate person is not inclined to obey God. He has no love for God that stirs his will to choose God. He could choose the things of God *if he wanted them,* but he does not want them. Our wills are such that we cannot freely choose what we have no desire to choose. The fundamental loss of desire for God is the heart of original sin. The lack of desire for the things of God renders us morally unable to choose the good.”

* **Practice Sin Willingly and Continually**

**Proverbs 16:1** The plans of the heart belong to man …

**Proverbs 16:9** The heart of man plans his way …

**Proverbs 19:21** Many are the plans in the mind of a man …

**James 1:14** But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire.

**Romans 6:17-18** But thanks be to God, that you who were once slaves of sin have become obedient from the heart to the standard of teaching to which you were committed, and, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness.

**1 John 3:4-9**

**Galatians 5:19-21**

**Galatians 5:22-25** But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit.

* **Due the Just Penalty of God’s Perfect Wrath**

**2 Thessalonians 1:6-9**

**Matthew 25:46** “And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.”

**Romans 2:5-8**

**Romans 6:23** For the wages of sin is death …

**Matthew 7:13** “... For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction …”

**Hebrews 10:26-27** (NIV) If we deliberately keep on sinning ... [there is] only a fearful expectation of judgment and of raging fire that will consume the enemies of God.

**2 Corinthians 5:10** For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil.

* **The Gospel**

The gospel is the good news of the grace and power of God to redeem undeserving sinners to eternal life through Jesus’ perfect, sinless life; substitutional, sacrificial death; and victorious resurrection from the grave. These sinners are saved by grace alone through faith alone in Jesus alone from the eternal wrath they deserved, and are reconciled into an eternally secure relationship with God.